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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SHANGHAI 007121

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E.O. 12958: DECL: X1 MANUAL REVIEW
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [EINV](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [CH](#)
SUBJECT: (C) BIO DETAILS UFWD HEAD LIU YANDONG'S HUSBAND

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CLASSIFIED BY: Mary Tarnowka, Political/Economic Section Chief,
U.S. Consulate, Shanghai, Department of State.
REASON: 1.4 (b), (c), (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: On December 4, Poloff met with Yang Yuanxing (STC: 2799/0337/1932), husband of Hu Jintao protigi and United Front Work Department Head Liu Yandong, in connection with a visa referral for his upcoming tourist trip to the United States on December 20. Liu has been rumored to be in line to take over as Shanghai Party Secretary from acting Party Secretary Han Zheng sometime in the next year. Yang provided biographical details about himself, his wife and his daughter. End summary.

¶2. (C) Yang explained that both he and his wife were "cadre kids" (gaogan zidi). Both of them spent the first eight years of their lives in Shanghai, although neither was born there. Yang was born April 22, 1942, in Hubei and his wife was born in Tongzhou, Jiangsu. Her family home--the place where her father's family was from--is Nantong. Yang's father, Yang Xiandong, was an agriculture specialist who graduated with a PhD from Cornell University in 1937. He had been an official in the Shanghai government and moved to Beijing in 1949 to be a vice minister in the first Ministry of Agriculture in the new PRC government. Yang Xiandong did not join the Chinese Communist Party until after he moved to Beijing. According to the 1981 version of "Who's Who in the People's Republic of China," Yang Xiandong also participated in the first session of the first Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in September ¶1949.

¶3. (C) Liu attended the high school affiliated with Qinghua University. In the early 1970s, during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), Liu was selected as one of a handful of people to study English. She still speaks reasonably well, according to Yang. Yang speaks Russian, having studied it during college. He also speaks a few phrases in English, but not enough to carry on a simple conversation.

¶4. (C) Early on during the Cultural Revolution, Yang's father was accused of being a spy for the United States. Yang was sent down to the countryside, but was spared from the severe persecution that many of his cadre kid friends endured because his father had been on close terms with Chairman Mao Zedong. (Note: According to "Who's Who," Yang Xiandong was at least partially rehabilitated in 1972 when he made a public appearance at the mourning ceremony for a deceased famous cadre. He was not identified in the press further until 1978 when he

reappeared as the president of the Agriculture Society. By the following year he was restored to his post of Vice Minister of Agriculture. End note.) Yang was not inclined to say much about his experiences during the Cultural Revolution. He did, however, say that Liu had fared better than he had during the period because of her family connections, although he did not go into detail about Liu's family.

¶15. (C) Yang said he and Liu Yandong had been married for 35 years and had one child, a 34 year old daughter. Yang said that during the early years of their marriage, he and Liu had been too poor to afford to have another child. Their daughter spent seven years in the United States in New York City, arriving in the mid 1990s. She had been visiting Washington DC with a Japanese friend during the terrorist attacks of 9/11. That morning, the two had been slated to visit the Pentagon and missed the attack by half an hour; she saw the flames from the hotel where she was staying. Both parents tried unsuccessfully to reach her for several hours. When Liu finally reached her, she suggested that her daughter return to China, settle down and get married. The daughter agreed and currently resides in Beijing. Yang did not say if she was currently married.

¶16. (C) Yang has a total of three siblings: two younger sisters; and one younger brother. His brother's family resides in Salt Lake City, Utah, although his brother is currently living in Singapore where he is conducting business. All of Yang's siblings are U.S. citizens, although he rarely visits them when he travels to the United States. Yang has several cousins and friends in the United States as well. Yang has been to the United States several times, most recently in 2004.

¶17. (C) Yang owns his own business, China Southeast Technology Trading Head Office (Zhongguo Dongnan Jishu Maoyi Zonggongsi), located in Beijing's Haidian District at No. 3 Fuxing Road, Room 320 of the Science and Technology Hall ("keji huitang"), with capitalization well in excess of RMB 1 million. His company deals with: "new technology, new products, development of

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electronics products, research and manufacture, application, sales, and consultancy; computer network systems engineering; and cosmetics research, production, and sales."

¶18. (C) Yang is also the secretary general of the "Lu Xun Cultural Garden Planning and Construction Committee" in Beijing. He said that currently, the committee was selling off properties that it owned to get capital and tearing down residential units on other land it owned to make space for the garden. Yang noted that he is distantly related to the famous Chinese author Lu Xun, which was why they had named the project after him. Yang said that initially, he had been paying Lu Xun's son 40,000 RMB per year for the right to use "Lu Xun" in the title. Yang recently decided to change the name of the venture to "Lu Yi" to avoid having to pay the fee. While he stopped paying Lu Xun's son, his business card still bears the name "Lu Xun" and, Yang said, the business is still officially registered as "Lu Xun." The project's website is "www.lyshc.com".

¶19. (C) Yang is also a photography buff and travels around China and the world on photo excursions with his two DSLR cameras--a Canon and a Nikon. In fact, his meeting with Poloff was to request a visa referral so he could spend 20-30 days traveling the United States to take pictures. Yang said that Liu is also very interested in photography, but does not have time to pursue this interest due to her job. Yang is very interested in travel and boasted that he is friends with the heads of many tourist associations and top-quality hotels throughout China.

¶110. (S) Yang's personal passport number is G03990756. It was issued April 16 2002, and expires April 15 2007. He has a Beijing "hukou" residence and his identification card number is ¶110102194204222310. According to his business card, Yang's phone number is 86-10-8846-2789. His fax number is 86-10-8846-2790. His cell phone number is 1390-138-8790.

¶11. (C) Yang attended the lunch with Ms. Zhang Shidan, Deputy Director of the Zhejiang Association for Science and Technology International Department. Ms. Zhang appeared to be in her early 30s and spoke excellent English. She said that Yang was affiliated with the National Association for Science and Technology, which was why she had traveled with him. It did not appear that they had known each other long prior to this lunch.
JARRETT